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2. — *The Hallig, or, The Sheepfold in the Waters. A Tale of Humble Life on the Coast of Schleswig.* Translated from the German of BIERNATZSKI, by MRS. GEORGE P. MARSH. With a Biographical Sketch of the Author. Boston : Gould & Lincoln. 1856. 12mo. pp. 322.

OF Biernatzski we have never before heard. But we shall be quick hereafter to read any new translation from his writings. Mrs. Marsh, in her modest Preface, has not exaggerated the interest of this beautiful story. Its wisdom is quaint, its piety is fervent, its morality is pure, and its descriptions are as graphic as intense reality can make them. It acquaints us with a most singular region of Europe, — hitherto, so far as we know, entirely overlooked by lovers of the picturesque. The book is a series of pictures, bright and sad, of sunshine and of storm. The love-story is simple and touching. Perhaps the best revelation made by the volume, however, is of the ability of Mrs. Marsh as a translator, not only of German prose, but of German poetry. It is difficult to believe that the spirited lyrics, of which so many are here given, are versions. They have the freshness and fire of original composition. Where have our translators been, that they have so long passed by these exquisite morsels of verse? We trust that this contribution to our lighter literature is only the beginning of what so accomplished a translator as Mrs. Marsh intends to do.

3. — *Provinces Danubiennes et Roumaines.* Par MM. CHOPIN et A. UBICINI. Paris : Firmin Didot Frères. 1856. 8vo. pp. 720.

THIS volume makes the thirty-ninth of the series of the *Univers Pittoresque*. It is in two parts. The first and larger part treats of that portion of ancient Dacia which is now included in the territory of Austria, — the provinces of Bosnia, Servia, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Slavonia, Illyria, Croatia, Dalmatia, Montenegro, and Albania. The materials for an exact and thorough history of these provinces are not abundant, and those within reach are of so fragmentary a character as to make it difficult to arrange them. M. Chopin, considering the nature of his work, has done it remarkably well. He has succeeded in giving a clear picture of the ancient as well as the present life of these rude and almost unvisited regions, and in joining the present to the past in a connected historical chain. His details concerning those

strange tribes that dwell on the mountains east of the Adriatic are very full and curious, and show very painstaking research. He has quite rescued Ragusa from the obscurity into which it had strangely fallen, and given it a place beside Venice, Genoa, and Pisa. On the history and condition of Servia, in treating which he has been aided by numerous unpublished journals of travel, deposited in the Imperial Library of Paris, he has condensed a mass of information which cannot be found in any English work. He has furnished in an appendix a complete abstract of the elaborate code of laws established for Servia by the Czar Stephen in the year 1349, — a code in which the national spirit is perfectly embodied, and which, with all its defects and absurdities, is far in advance of that tyranny which now abuses the Servians in its mockery of justice. The appendix also contains the new code of Montenegro, established during the past year, of which the preamble asserts the principles of our Declaration of Independence, and the statutes, though sufficiently bloody, are incomparably more wise and humane than those of the Territory of Kansas, as recorded in our statute-books. Another novel feature in the appendix is a table of the heights of the mountains, passes, and elevated cities and towns, to the number of several hundreds.

M. Chopin is not a spirited writer, and his style is not equal to his erudition. He lacks the faculty of clothing his facts in an attractive dress, and his chapters are more German than French. He dwells with equal minuteness upon the dry and the interesting parts of his story, and often indulges in needless repetition. It is unfortunate, too, that a work to which a copious index, and a full table of contents, seem indispensable, should be without these aids. Index there is none, and the table of contents covers hardly one page of the five hundred. One has to search a long time to find the information buried in the vast plain of the narrative.

A good Frenchman, of course, feels called upon to glorify his own nation in every way, even were he writing about the Antipodes; and the patriotism of this scribe breaks out frequently in disquisition and prophecy. The doubt about the author's nationality which his long sentences might have suggested, is set right by the tone of his speculation, which is thoroughly that of the Paris *Revue*.

The second part of the volume, treating of Wallachia, Moldavia, Bukowina, Transylvania, and Bessarabia, is in every respect admirable. M. Ubicini, whom we suppose to be an Italian, writes in the French tongue like a master. His work is free from the defects noticed in that of M. Chopin, and goes over ground which the recent war in the East has made very interesting and important. We hope to consider it more

at length in a future number. A work by Ubicini on the Turkish Empire, translated by Mrs. Easthope, has recently been published in London. It is described as very able.

4. — *Nouvelle Biographie Universelle, Depuis les Temps les plus Reculés jusqu'à nos Jours, avec les Renseignements Bibliographiques, et l'Indication des Sources à consulter.* Sous la Direction de M. le DR. HOEFER. Paris: Firmin Didot Frères.

NONE of the great literary enterprises which Messrs. Didot have undertaken is more praiseworthy or more difficult than this of a Universal Biography. The work has been done more thoroughly in France than in any other nation; but the number and cost of the long series of volumes of the old *Biographie Universelle* prevent most persons from easy access to them. The present series is a marvel of cheapness, and, were its defects tenfold greater than they are, would still be worth more than it costs. The volumes, containing each nearly a thousand octavo pages, in double columns, in small, clear type and on excellent paper, are furnished in Boston at the incredibly low price of *seventy-five cents*. They appear once in two months. The prospect now is, that, if the publishers fulfil their promise, about half of the work will be *given* to the subscribers, since, instead of the thirty-two volumes designated as the maximum, we are likely to have *sixty*, if the work goes on as it has begun. *Fifteen* volumes have been published without finishing the first five letters of the alphabet. All beyond thirty-two volumes is to be delivered gratuitously.

A work of this kind, of course, requires more research and ingenuity in compilation and condensation, than original ability in its writers. Its writers, however, are numerous and eminent. Besides the editor, Dr. Hoefer, we have several of the most distinguished of the staff of the Imperial Library, and many well-known professors, scholars, and members of the French Institute. Villemain and De Barante head the list. Isambert, Breton, and Leblanc have contributed many fine sketches. From the cursory examination we have been able to make of the fifteen volumes, we may pronounce the literary execution excellent, and the comprehensive plan well carried out. The whole family of "Adam," from the first man down to the late engraver of the Vienna Bible, receive due and respectful notice. More is said about "Cain" than strict justice would require, and the prophecy about Cassius M. Clay, that he will doubtless be *President of the United*